

MINUTES
UTAH
RECREATIONAL THERAPY
MEETING

April 23, 2007

Room 402 – 10:30 A.M.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 10:40 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 11:31 A.M.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Noel Taxin
Karen McCall

Board Members Present:

Shelly E. Oda
Gwen T. Nelson
Shawna Peterson
Trish Jensen
Patrick R. Park

Guests:

Chris Van Hook
Victoria Clift

DOPL Staff Present:

F. David Stanley, Division Director

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Swearing in of Patrick R. Park and Shawna Peterson as Board Members

Ms. Taxin conducted the swearing in of Mr. Park and Ms. Peterson as Board members. **The Board welcomed them.**

MINUTES:

The minutes from the December 5, 2005 meeting were read.

Ms. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Ms. Oda seconded the motion. **The Board vote was unanimous.**

APPOINTMENTS:

10:50 A.M.

John Clift

Mr. Clift met with the Board to discuss supervision and scope of practice for licensed and unlicensed individuals being supervised.

Board members and Division staff were introduced to Mr. Clift.

Ms. Taxin stated that she talked with Mr. Clift regarding the discussion for today.

Ms. Taxin explained that Mr. Clift does consulting with different agencies in Utah and he has had some difficulties with some of those agencies. Ms. Taxin explained that Mr. Clift is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Master Therapeutic Recreational Specialist. She explained that Mr. Clift's employers have requested him to act as a dual supervisor for the Social Service Workers (SSW's) and the Therapeutic Recreational Technicians (TRT's). She stated that the agencies have had Mr. Clift supervising TRT's outside of their scope of practice.

Mr. Clift apologized for having to meet with the Board. He stated that it is his intention to clear up the confusion and have a plan that everyone agrees with. He stated that he has tried to do the right thing and to help promote the Recreational Therapy profession in the proper way. Mr. Clift stated that he has changed the way he has been doing his supervision and makes sure any TRT he is supervising has the TRT license. He stated that he is now aware of the TRT scope of practice and is careful in how he is supervising. Mr. Clift stated that he is planning to do more on-site training at the facilities. He stated that when the facilities have questions he is trying to show them very distinctly what they need to do. He stated that he is paying closer attention to what is happening and also evaluating the TRT more closely to be sure they are following the treatment plan he has prepared and are using the goals that he has prepared. Mr. Clift stated

that the TRT may collect data but he writes, directs and changes the treatment plans for clients. He stated that the TRT does have observations that he is not privy to as they are at the facilities all the time. He explained that he has informed the TRT's to talk with him regarding their observations and he will review the information for possible changes in the treatment plan. Mr. Clift stated that he reviews all the data for treatment plans and will take time to visit face to face with each patient. He stated that he will be sure the appropriate person is doing specific jobs and if the appropriate person is not the TRT then he will have someone else assigned to that job. Mr. Clift stated that he understands that he is responsible to be sure the licensees are to protecting the public and not putting any patient at risk. He stated that he knows he has a responsibility to be sure the treatment plan is appropriate for each patient.

Mr. Clift stated that he plans to be more assertive with the administrators to be sure he is allotted the hours he needs at each facility or he will leave the facility and inform the administrator of the reason.

Mr. Clift stated that it is his hope to be a better supervisor.

Ms. Oda asked Mr. Clift if he is employed at short term or long term facilities.

Mr. Clift responded that most of the facilities are long term and he also works for a hospital and Primary Children's Medical Center.

Ms. Oda commented that she understands Mr. Clift's situation. She stated that where she works there are sometimes several new admissions in one day and she must rely on the TRT for assistance. She stated her admiration for Mr. Clift being assertive with the administrators to let them know what the MTRS supervisor's responsibilities are.

Ms. Jensen stated that she agrees with Ms. Oda. She stated that when the MTRS is in a consulting role they need to notice the risks that come in balancing the time and the Recreational Therapy

work they do. She stated that an apology from Mr. Clift is not necessary as it is apparent that he is taking steps to correct any supervision difficulties.

Ms. Taxin stated that each licensee should treat the public with the best service they have to offer. She stated that Mr. Clift's plan shows he has thought it through. She stated that sometimes having a plan helps keep the supervisor better organized.

Ms. Jensen stated that asking Mr. Clift to meet with the Board is an example of how the Division handles situations different now than they did about 15 years ago. She stated that the Division either took no action or they took the hard disciplinary action. She commented that discussion with the Board is a healthy way to handle certain situations.

Ms. Oda agreed with Ms. Jensen and stated that this Board was instrumental in making Rule changes where years ago the Bureau Manager made the changes. She stated that it is important to have specific licensees doing specific jobs and facilities should not skimp on costs as it does not protect the public. She stated that the licensees should also set boundaries to be sure the public is safe.

Ms. Taxin commented that if employees do not stand up for themselves then sometimes the load keeps being added on them. She stated that if licensees are not serving the patient properly they are not really doing their job.

Ms. Oda commented that Mr. Clift also has the Board as a support system.

Ms. Jensen stated that the TRT sometimes gets put in the middle of situations but the MTRS still has to manage what they are doing according to the Laws and Rules.

Ms. Taxin voiced appreciation for Mr. Clift taking time to meet with the Board for this discussion. She stated that she hopes the process was helpful to

Mr. Clift.

Mr. Clift responded that the process and discussion was helpful. He thanked Ms. Taxin and the Board.

Mr. Clift then asked if an individual can be in training to be a TRT if they are 16 or 17 years old.

Ms. Taxin responded that the Law requires an individual to have a High School Diploma or a GED when they apply for any Recreational Therapy level of licensing. She stated that before anyone is allowed to start the TRT training and coursework the supervisor should be sure the individual has the High School Diploma or GED. She stated that she has not seen any problems with the age but has seen problems with the High School Diploma or GED especially if someone is from another country. She stated that she would have to do some research to answer regarding the age but believed they would qualify.

Ms. Jensen commented that she would like the Law or the Rules to clarify that the age is 18 in order to practice.

Ms. Van Hook entered the discussion and stated that the facilities require employees to be 18.

Ms. Jensen stated that if the intent is 18 it should be in the Law.

Ms. Taxin stated that the CNA's are younger than 18.

Ms. Nelson stated that sometimes the CNA's are 16.

Ms. Taxin concluded that until there is a change, Mr. Clift should be sure he has a qualified person as Laws and Rules indicate. If a 16 year old has graduated, they might be qualified to be in the TRT training program. Ms. Taxin asked Mr. Clift if he understood the criteria for those going into the TRT training program.

Mr. Clift responded that he does understand that anyone in the TRT training program must have a High School Diploma or a GED.

Ms. Jensen stated that a minor can sign a legal contract when they are 18 and that is what she was thinking about when she commented that the age for TRT training should be 18.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

FYI

Ms. Taxin stated that it has come to her attention that there are several facilities that hire people to act as TRT's who are not licensed and the facilities are also requiring licensed TRT's to work beyond their scope of practice.

Ms. Oda stated that she called in a complaint on this issue and has never been contacted regarding the outcome.

Ms. Taxin stated that she has read a lot of the Utah Laws and Rules but the facilities are saying they have operated this way for years and now the Division is saying they are not operating properly. She stated that there are several open cases being investigated at this time.

Ms. Oda stated that some facilities are trying to do away with the Recreational Therapy positions and she has educated the administrators that if they offer Recreational Therapy services then they need to have the Recreation Therapists to do those services.

Ms. Taxin stated that all recreational activities do not require a Recreational Therapist but Recreational Therapy does require the Recreational Therapist. She stated that she has had to educate several facility administrators on the difference and if the treatment plan has specific recreational therapy written then they must have the Recreational Therapist.

Board Chairperson

Ms. Taxin explained how some of the other Boards choose their chairperson. She stated that any Board member may serve as the chairperson and if someone

would like to volunteer then this Board would be ready for the next meeting.

Ms. Oda recommended Ms. Nelson be the chairperson.

Ms. Nelson responded that she is only a TRT and not sure if it is appropriate for a TRT to serve as chairperson.

Ms. Taxin again stated that any Board member may serve as it does not matter what level of license is held or if the chairperson is the public member. She explained that the chairperson works with her and the Board secretary to set up the agenda. She stated that the chairperson may call on other Board members for assistance if necessary. Ms. Taxin stated that this Board may have 2 meetings during the year that the chairperson would be responsible for. She stated that the chairperson should be on time as they run the meeting and she and the Board are here to help the chairperson with their duties and responsibilities. She stated that Ms. McCall might contact the chairperson regarding agenda items.

Mr. Park stated that he would like to serve on the Board and know how the Board operates before he would volunteer to serve as chairperson.

Mr. Park nominated Ms. Nelson as chairperson. Ms. Oda seconded the motion. The Board vote was unanimous.

Ms. Taxin stated that the chairperson should not put themselves on the spot by voicing their personal opinions. She stated that others see them as part of the Board and the comments will be taken as Board comments. Ms. Taxin stated that if Ms. Nelson, or any Board member, has questions asked of them, they should recommend those questions be presented before the Board for discussion or call her for counsel prior to giving feedback. Ms. Taxin stated that if the questions are regarding Laws and Rules that they may use the website to guide the questioner but if the

question is regarding an investigative case, application, etc. they should refer them to the Division.

Ms. Jensen stated that she has never had anyone contact her outside the Board meetings except when the Board re-wrote the Rules. She stated that association or general contact or communication should always be part of the Board meeting and not outside.

Ms. Taxin stated that any Board members may respond to questions by saying the individual has a good question and then offer to call the person back with the answer. She stated that the Board members should then contact her for assistance or to determine if it would be appropriate for the individual to attend a Board meeting for the answer.

Ms. Taxin reminded the Board that they represent the Division and the profession in protecting the public.

FYI

Ms. Taxin informed the Board of the retirement of Craig Jackson, Division Director, and the appointment of F. David Stanley as the Division Director. **Board members welcomed Mr. Stanley to the Division.**

2007 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board noted the following dates for the 2007 Board meeting schedule: June 12, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and August 17, 2007.

FYI

Ms. Jensen asked Ms. Taxin to explain the procedure in orienting new Board members.

Mr. Park responded that Ms. McCall sent him a letter with the application and Laws and Rules to review. He stated that he was also invited to attend a new Board member training session at the Division.

Ms. Taxin responded that she also has talked with Mr. Park and could meet with Ms. Peterson regarding any questions she may have. She stated that she also conducts an annual training for all Board members.

Ms. Peterson stated that she is the volunteer

coordinator at the Utah State Hospital and works closely with the Recreational Therapists. She stated that she will contact Ms. Taxin regarding some training.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

August 17, 2007

Ms. Taxin reminded the Board that if there are no agenda items the August 17, 2007 Board meeting will be cancelled. She stated that there will be a new Board member and she may have the Board meet to swear in the new Board member.

FYI

Ms. Jensen explained that she has other commitments at this time that will require her to resign from the Board. She stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Board and it was a very difficult decision for her to make. She asked Ms. Taxin to explain the procedure for resignation. She stated that she has seen the evolution of how the Bureau Managers handle the Recreational Therapy Board and thanked Ms. Taxin for her management skills.

Ms. Taxin explained that she will need Ms. Jensen to submit a formal letter of resignation in order to start the process of appointing another Board member. She stated that if any Board members are aware of an MTRS who would be interested in serving on the Board to have them submit a letter of interest and a copy of their resume.

Board members thanked Ms. Jensen for her service.

Ms. Oda informed the Board that this is her last meeting as she has served 2 terms. She stated that it has been a good experience for her and she thanked the Board for their help and willingness to serve. Ms. Oda also stated her appreciation in working with Ms. Taxin.

Board members thanked Ms. Oda for serving on the Board.

ADJOURN:

The time is 11:31 am and this meeting is adjourned.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

April 25, 2008
Date Approved

(ss) Gwen T. Nelson
Chairperson, Recreational Therapy Board

June 5, 2007
Date Approved

(ss) Noel Taxin
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &
Professional Licensing